

ENTRANCE FEE WAIVERS

The Land and Water Conservation Fund Act (LWCFA) of 1965 provides for granting a fee waiver to a school group or other bona fide educational institution. A fee waiver is NOT automatically granted. To obtain a fee waiver, certain criteria must be met. The decision to grant a fee waiver is a management responsibility of the park Superintendent.

Fee Waiver Qualification

- School groups or outings conducted for educational or scientific purposes by schools or other bona fide educational institutions qualify for a fee waiver of recreation fees IF the following **three criteria** are met, as applicable.
- Organizations that are generally considered service, civic or fraternal, e.g., scouting, Rotary, Elks and so forth, do NOT qualify for the education fee waiver, unless they meet the applicable criteria.

1. Criteria: Documentation Required (educational groups only – does NOT apply to scientific groups or organization.

A fee waiver applicant is required to provide documentation of their official recognition as an educational institution by a Federal, State or local government entity.

- a) It is insufficient for applicants to state that they have this recognition or imply it in their letter or literature. Documentation must be provided by the government entity with the authority to make the official determination as to the group's educational status.
- b) An applicant who has been granted an educational tax exemption by the Internal Revenue Service or similar State tax authority qualifies as a bona fide educational or scientific institution for purpose of a fee waiver. The applicant must provide official documentation attesting to the tax exemption.
- c) If a non-school group or organization has been officially recognized by a school or scientific institution for the purpose of providing educational credit hours based on a specific course of instruction, then the non-school group or organization would qualify for a fee waiver. Applicant must provide current official documentation attesting to the official recognition or affiliation.

- d) It is NOT necessary for a school or educational entity to be accredited to qualify for a fee waiver. This would apply to a school, that for religious or philosophical reasons chooses not to be accredited by the State educational system, but whose graduates can be accepted by educational institutions based on curriculum achievement, scholastic aptitude testing and so forth.

Documentation for a fee waiver can consist of a letter from the State or local government body attesting to the legitimacy of the school or educational entity.

2. Criteria: Direct relationship between visit purpose and facility use.

The use of any recreational facility for which a waiver of user fees is requested, must relate directly to the educational or scientific purpose of the visit and shall not be primarily for recreation purposes. Generally, camping is considered a recreational activity and rarely will qualify for a fee waiver.

3. Criteria: Statement of Visit Purpose

The applicant is required to provide a statement as to the purpose of the proposed visit. The visit must relate to the resources of the park to qualify for a fee waiver.

A general statement to the effect that the visit is for “educational purposes” is insufficient by itself. An explanation of WHAT the educational purpose entails and HOW it relates to park resources is required.

All fee waiver requests should be submitted in writing on official letterhead to the Superintendent at the following address:

Canaveral National Seashore
308 Julia Street
Titusville, FL 32796